

Amendments to the Specification

Applicants submit a substitute specification herewith, and have included a marked-up version and a clean copy version of the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that the substitute specification contains no new matter.

Below is a marked up version of the abstract. Please amend the abstract as reflected below.

Novel aggrecanase proteins and the nucleotides sequences encoding them as well as processes for producing them are disclosed. Methods for developing inhibitors of the aggrecanase enzymes and antibodies to the enzymes for treatment of conditions characterized by the degradation of aggrecan are also disclosed.